

# HAILEE CIPOLLINA

Undergraduate, Exceptional Education  
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Check Out Hailee's IPDS DR Blog:  
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## CLASSROOM LESSONS

Each school we visited affected me differently. I witnessed how important education was to everyone we met. From 3 Mariposas I learned about the Montessori method and ideals. Coral showed me that every classroom and each student's needs is unique and that different teaching styles can respond to that uniqueness. At the Mariposa DR Foundation we realized how important it was to build connections with the girls. Some were in our 6th grade class at Coral and I felt very close to them. I was touched by the memories we created and the affection they showed. The Foundation left the biggest impact on me.

## TEACHING LESSONS

I went into this trip knowing the importance of understanding and building connections with students, and I focused on this goal with the children I met in the DR. After seeing the students and teachers at work, and learning from their approach, I am 10X more committed to understanding and connecting with my students. The experience reinforced the fact that classrooms are full of children with their own stories and their own path in life, and that it's a teacher's job to respect and encourage what each student brings to the classroom.

### FAVORITE MEMORIES with the STUDENTS

- Teaching the Buffalo Bills shout
- Baking together
- Reading my bilingual book
- Making bracelets
- PLUS! Beach walks and making dinner with the cohort